

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the title to read as follows:

--PRINTING SYSTEM, PRINTING CONTROL METHOD AND APPARATUS PRINTING
DATA IN ACCORDANCE WITH UPDATED CONDITION INFORMATION--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 7, and 11-15 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of
the amended claims, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

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1. (Five Times Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:
a communicator for performing two-way communications with an
image output unit that includes an update unit for updating condition information indicating a
condition of the image output unit and a memory for storing the condition information, wherein
the condition information is obtained by forming color patches and measuring colors on the color
patches;
an input unit for inputting an image output instruction;
an acquisition unit for acquiring the condition information stored in the
image output unit by utilizing the two-way communications, in response to the image output
instruction; and

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E1
an image processor for performing image processing of image data in accordance with the condition information acquired by said acquisition unit, wherein said image processor decreases bit length for each pixel of the processed image data and then outputs the bit-decreased image data to the image output unit via communication line.

E2
7. (Five Times Amended) An image processing apparatus connected, via a communication network, with a host computer and a plurality of image output units, each image output unit having a function of updating condition information of the image output unit, the condition information being obtained by forming color patches and measuring colors on the color patches, said apparatus comprising:

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an input unit for inputting the condition information updated by the plurality of image output units;

a memory for storing the inputted condition information in association with each of the plurality of image output units;

a transmitter for transmitting the stored condition information to the host computer in accordance with a request for acquiring the condition information issued by the host computer; and

a management unit for managing an image output job of the host computer, wherein the condition information is obtained by forming color patches and measuring colors on the color patches,

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wherein the host computer performs image processing of image data in accordance with the condition information transmitted by said transmitter,

E2
wherein the host computer decreases bit length for each pixel of the processed image data and then outputs the bit-decreased image data to the image output unit via communication line, and

wherein each of the plurality of image output units outputs an image based on the image data processed by the host computer.

E3
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11. (Five Times Amended) An image processing method for performing image processing in a network system to which an image output apparatus, a server, and a network terminal are connected, said method comprising:

in the image output apparatus:

a condition measurement step, of updating condition information by forming color patches and measuring colors on the color patches; and

a notification step, of notifying the server of the updated condition information,

in the server:

a storage step, of storing the updated condition information notified from the image output apparatus in correspondence with a type of the image output apparatus;

and

a management step, of managing an image output job, and

in the network terminal:

an input step, of inputting an image output instruction of a user;

an acquisition step, of acquiring the updated condition information stored in the server in response to the image output instruction; and

an image processing step, of performing image processing using an image processing condition in accordance with the updated condition information, then decreasing bit length for each pixel of the processed image data and outputting the bit-decreased image data to the image output unit via communication line.

12. (Five Times Amended) An image processing method performed in a server connected, via a communication network, with a host computer and a plurality of image output units, each image output unit having a function of updating condition information indicating a condition of the image output unit, said method comprising:

an input step, of inputting an image output instruction;

an acquisition step, of acquiring the condition information stored in the image output unit by utilizing two-way communications, in response to the image output instruction; and

an image processing step, of performing image processing of image data in accordance with the condition information acquired in said acquisition step, wherein said image processing step decreases bit length for each pixel of the processed image data and then outputs the bit-decreased image data to the image output unit via communication line.

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13. (Five Times Amended) An image processing method performed in a server connected, via a communication network, with a host computer and a plurality of image output units, each image output unit having a function of updating condition information of the image output unit, said method comprising:

an input step, of inputting the condition information updated by the plurality of image output units;

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a storage step, of storing the inputted condition information in association with each of the plurality of image output units;

a transmission step, of transmitting the stored condition information to the host computer in accordance with a request for acquiring the condition information issued by the host computer; and

a management step, of managing an image output job of the host computer,

wherein the condition information is obtained by forming color patches and measuring colors on the color patches,

wherein the host computer performs image processing of image data in accordance with the condition information transmitted in said transmission step,

wherein the host computer decreases bit length for each pixel of the processed image data and then outputs the bit-decreased image data to the image output unit via communication line, and

wherein each of the plurality of image output units outputs an image based on the image data processed by the host computer.

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14. (Five Times Amended) A computer-readable storage medium that stores a program for implementing, by a computer, an image processing method, the program comprising:

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code for a communication step, of performing two-way communications with an image output unit having an update unit for updating condition information indicating a condition of the image output unit and a memory for storing the condition information, wherein the condition information is obtained by forming color patches and measuring colors on the color patches;

code for an input step, of inputting an image output instruction;

code for an acquisition step, of acquiring the condition information stored in the image output unit by utilizing the two-way communications, in response to the image output instruction; and

code for an image processing step, of performing image processing of image data in accordance with the condition information acquired by the acquisition step, wherein said image processing function decreases bit length for each pixel of the processed image data and then outputs the bit-decreased image data to the image output unit via communication line.

15. (Five Times Amended) A computer-readable storage medium that stores a program for an image processing method performed by a server connected, via a communication network, with a host computer and a plurality of image output units, each image output unit having a function of updating condition information of the image output unit, the program comprising:

code for an input step, of inputting the condition information updated by the plurality of image output units;

code for a storage step, of storing the inputted condition information in association with each of the plurality of image output units;

code for a transmission step, of transmitting the stored condition information to the host computer in accordance with a request for acquiring the condition information issued by the host computer; and

code for a management step, of managing an image output job of the host computer,

wherein the condition information is obtained by forming color patches and measuring colors on the color patches,

wherein the host computer performs image processing of image data in accordance with the condition information transmitted by the transmission step,

wherein the host computer decreases bit length for each pixel of the processed image data and then outputs the bit-decreased image data to the image output unit via communication line, and